

ARBITRATION

Convention signed at Washington February 29, 1908
Senate advice and consent to ratification March 6, 1908
Ratified by the President of the United States May 29, 1908
Ratified by Switzerland October 13, 1908
Ratifications exchanged at Washington December 23, 1908
Entered into force December 23, 1908
Proclaimed by the President of the United States December 23, 1908
Extended by agreement of November 3, 1913¹
Expired December 23, 1918

35 Stat. 2088; Treaty Series 515

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Swiss Confederation, signatories of the Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, concluded at The Hague on the 29th July, 1899;²

Taking into consideration that by Article XIX of that Convention the High Contracting Parties have reserved to themselves the right of concluding Agreements, with a view to referring to arbitration all questions which they shall consider possible to submit to such treatment;

Have authorized the Undersigned to conclude the following arrangement:

ARTICLE I

Differences which may arise of a legal nature, or relating to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two Contracting Parties, and which it may not have been possible to settle by diplomacy, shall be referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at The Hague by the Convention of the 29th July, 1899, provided, nevertheless, that they do not affect the vital interests, the independence, or the honor of the two Contracting States, and do not concern the interests of third Parties.

ARTICLE II

In each individual case the High Contracting Parties, before appealing to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, shall conclude a special Agreement

¹ TS 590, *post*, p. 913.

² TS 392, *ante*, vol. 1, p. 230.

defining clearly the matter in dispute, the scope of the powers of the Arbitrators, and the periods to be fixed for the formation of the Arbitral Tribunal and the several stages of the procedure. It is understood that such special agreements on the part of the United States will be made by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and on the part of Switzerland, by the Federal Council of the Swiss Confederation, with the advice and consent of the Federal Assembly.

ARTICLE III

The present Convention is concluded for a period of five years, dating from the day of the exchange of the ratifications.

ARTICLE IV

The present Convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof; and by the Government of the Swiss Confederation in accordance with its constitution and laws.

The ratifications of this Convention shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as possible, and it shall take effect on the date of the exchange of its ratifications.

Done in duplicate in the English and French languages, at Washington, this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year 1908.

ELIHU ROOT	[SEAL]
L. VOGEL	[SEAL]